The Causes Behind Neglecting *aṣ-Ṣalāh* [the Prayer]

Question:

His question goes as follows: Many people are negligent with regard to *aṣ-Ṣalāh*. What, in your view, are the causes of this? And what are the means that may be followed in order to bring the Muslims back to it, if Allāh {تَعَالَى} wills?

Imām Moḥammad b. Ṣāliḥ al-ʿUthaymīn:

The *Asbāb* [causes] of this are many and varied. Among the most important and greatest of them is following *ash-Shahawāt* [base desires]. For this reason, Allāh {تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى} joined the neglect of *aṣ-Ṣalāh* with following *ash-Shahawāt*. He {سُبْحَانَهُ} said:

﴿فَخَلَفَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ خَلْفٌ أَضَاعُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَاتَّبَعُوا الشَّهَوَاتِ فَسَوْفَ يَلْقَوْنَ غَيًّا ۞ إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَآمَنَ﴾

"*Then, there came after them successors who neglected aṣ-Ṣalāh and followed ash-Shahawāt, so they will meet Ghāyy [a ruinous consequence], except those who repent and believe.*" (***Sūrah Maryam***, 19:59)

Among its causes also is the ignorance of people concerning the reality of this prayer: their ignorance of its importance, their ignorance of its *Fawāʾid* [benefits], their ignorance of its *Faḍāʾil* [virtues], their ignorance of its *Thawāb* [reward], and their ignorance of its rank with Allāh {عَزَّ وَجَلَّ}, along with other matters that have caused people, indeed many of them, to treat it lightly.

Among its causes, meaning among the causes of negligence concerning *aṣ-Ṣalāh*, is that many of those who pray, when they pray, only perform it as a routine act, a merely bodily act, that is, an act of the *Jawāriḥ* [limbs] only, not an act of the heart. We ask Allāh to grant us and them *al-ʿAfw wa-l-ʿĀfiyah* [pardon and well-being]

Thus, you hardly find in them *Khuḍūʿ* [submissiveness], nor *Khushūʿ* [deep attentiveness], nor *Dhull* [humble abasement] before Allāh {عَزَّ وَجَلَّ}, nor any conscious awareness of what they are saying in their prayer, nor any conscious awareness of what they are doing. For this reason, they leave the prayer having gained nothing from it.

No *Nūr* [light] has reached their hearts, no increase has occurred in their *Īmān* [faith], and no distancing from *al-Faḥshāʾ wa-l-Munkar* [obscenity and evil] has occurred from them. All of this is because they pray the prayer of a body without *Rūḥ* [spirit].

If they had given *aṣ-Ṣalāh* its due right in terms of *Khushūʿ*, *Ḥuḍūru-l-Qalb* [presence of the heart], *Ināb*ah [turning repentantly to Allāh], and the

person's awareness that he is standing before his Lord, then he would love this prayer, become attached to it, and his heart would incline toward it.

For this reason, the Prophet ﷺ said:

«جُعِلَتْ قُرَّةُ عَيْنِي فِي الصَّلَاةِ»

"*The comfort of my eye has been placed in aṣ-Ṣalāh.*"

Source: *Silsilah Fatāwá Nūr ʿalá ad-Darb* | **Tape** no. 72.